

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES

714/744 P STREET

P.O. BOX 942732

SACRAMENTO, CA 94234-7320

(916) 322-2090



NL: 19-0789

Date: July 20, 1989

Index: Gastrostomy Feeding Services

TO: California Children Services (CCS) Independent and Dependent County Offices and CCS Regional Offices

SUBJECT: Occupational Therapy for Swallowing and/or Feeding Problems in Patients with CCS Eligible Conditions

In general, patients who need occupational therapy (OT) services for swallowing and/or feeding problems may fall into two groups: (1) patients whose swallowing/feeding problems are caused by a CCS eligible, non-MTU condition, and (2) patients whose swallowing/feeding problems are caused by an MTU eligible condition.

1. Swallowing/feeding problems caused by a CCS eligible non-MTU condition.

The basic principles of medical eligibility and case management are:

- a. The NG or gastrostomy tube must have been inserted for a CCS eligible condition.
- b. The patient shall be under the care of an approved CCS center (GI or Pulmonary) and the recommendation for OT services for feeding assessment or training shall be from the authorized center.
- c. OT services, when indicated shall be authorized through the general CCS program. Authorization shall be to a CCS paneled OT with expertise in this area, subject to the program's financial and residence eligibility requirements.
- d. The initial authorization shall be for an assessment by the OT. The initial treatment shall not exceed a period of one month; extensions at two month intervals may be granted if the patient makes demonstrable progress.
- e. In general, therapy beyond six months should consist of periodic consultation and parent/caretaker training so that the parent/caretaker can assume ongoing responsibility for this function. An appropriate duration of such parent/caretaker training and supervision is three months.

f. In rare exceptions, when no other resources are available in the community, patients with feeding/swallowing problems that are CCS eligible but non-MTU related may receive therapy in the unit.

2. Swallowing/feeding problems related to an MTU eligible condition

- a. If the patient is already receiving therapy in the unit for the MTU eligible condition, the related swallowing/feeding therapy may be provided by MTU staff as part of the child's overall program.
- b. If therapy for the MTU eligible condition is being vendored, the related swallowing/feeding therapy shall also be vendored, in accordance with the procedure described for patients above (1 a-e).

Maridee Gregory MD

Maridee A. Gregory, M.D., Chief
California Children Services